

I support Mr Eric Ward's request for the immediate elimination of "proficiency in telegraphy using Morse code."

The immediate removal of the telegraphy requirement from Amateur Radio licensing is appropriate and clearly in the public interest.

To implement his request I suggest the Commission at once delete the Element 1 requirement for all ham licenses. Further I suggest that the Commission at once give "Tech Plus" privileges to current Technician licensees.

I request that the Commission take expedited action to allow volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) to discontinue administering Element 1 "as soon as possible," if possible, within the next 60 days.

I agree that the Amateur Service community suffers from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators who are turned away because of the CW requirement.

With the WARC decision this summer, which gives each country the right to determine if CW skills should be included as part of an amateur radio license exam, there is no longer any reasonable justification for requiring an applicant to demonstrate this antiquated skill.

Further, most applicants never use Morse after they pass the test.

I will tell you that it is the CW Element 1 requirement and not the technical knowledge required that has prevented me for the last 10 years from upgrading my license.

The FCC does not require licensees to demonstrate proof of the ability to use voice, RTTY, PSK, SSTV or other modes of communications. It is time that the CW requirement be eliminated.